

RECREATION & PARKS

The area's overwhelming compassion was the name of the game for Berlin Recreation this past year. With the unfortunate passing of local icons the Berlin community opened their hearts with the Berlin Recreation becoming the benefactor of such a warm showing of charity.

Three-lettered athlete Patrick Forestall's passing saw his long-time employer CCB, Inc. reaching out to the Berlin Babe Ruth Baseball program, giving it the kick-start it needed after a two year break. Their initial donation enabled this department to replace uniforms and equipment and started the ball rolling for plenty more contributions to pour in. Babe Ruth Baseball is in good financial standing thanks to many generous people. In an effort to show appreciation, the Berlin Babe Ruth Baseball team was renamed the Berlin Pats. The opening home game was an opportunity to remember the fine gentleman that was Patrick Forestall. Friends, family members, co-workers and dignitaries shared their



thoughts while Mrs. Patrick (Betty) Forestall graciously agreed to throw out the first ball. Berlin Recreation also retired the #15 jersey in honor of Pat's favorite N.Y. Yankee player (sorry Red Sox fans), Mr. Thurman Munson, and presented a #15 shirt to both Mrs. Betty Forestall and CCB, Inc. All in all as Head Coach Donny Labrecque said "It was an awesome year with 5 wins, 2 losses and 3 ties with five Berlin players making the 13 year old All-stars and two Berlin players making the 14 year old All-stars."

After a courageous battle these past few years, Community Service Director Laura Lee Viger succumbed to her health issues on July 17, 2012. The Berlin Recreation Center was the location for A Celebration of Laura's Life which was attended by people throughout the state who Laura touched with her generosity, humor, creativity, and dedication to improving the community she so loved. As StudioWorks owner and artist Andre Belanger mentioned, one cannot walk around enjoying Berlin's landscapes or hear of a community event being held without Laura Viger having had a hand in its successful development. Laura's beautiful art prints



were available during this celebration and many attendees wishing to have a remembrance of Laura picked up a print leaving a donation for the Recreation Department. These donations will be put to good use helping the Recreation's summer playground program, the place where Laura started her illustrious career with the city of Berlin and to Special Olympics, a program.

Laura gave a multitude of dedicated hours creating activities for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Numerous others donated to the City's flower account insuring the Laura Lee Viger Botanical Gardens will continue to be a beautiful reflection of Laura for years to come.

The Recreation's Cheerleading program increased to 26 young ladies under the

professional guidance of Instructor Susanne Styles. The highlight of this program was a delightful performance at Berlin Senior High during the Summer Men's Basketball annual fund raiser. Having so many relatives at the game witnessing the excitement of these first through fourth graders demonstrating their routines was truly enjoyable and very beneficial to the Men's Basketball fund raiser. This well attended event raised \$1,150 for the Jones/Laflamme families who recently experienced a tragic vehicle accident.



Cheerleaders Performance

Winter and spring, 2012 also saw an outpouring of generosity. The Wildcat/Attitash Corporation held a Season Pass Holder Party and Auction with proceeds from the auction divvied up among various communities. Berlin Recreation was the recipient of \$1,870.00. This will provide scholarships to children in grades 3 – 6 wishing to experience the Ski and Snow Board program offered through the Berlin Recreation Department. Students who may have never tried skiing or snowboarding due to the cost involved will now have a chance to apply for a scholarship. We are always grateful when an organization affords us the opportunity to open up our recreation programs to more residents.

The ever popular Berlin Recreation's Easter Eggstravaganza celebrated its 31st year in 2012 with 200 plus children "hunting" for treats in the Recreation gymnasium. We are able to provide this free holiday event year

after year because generous companies such as Verizon Wireless, Coulombe Real Estate, Tremaine Opticians, and Gill's Flower & Candy Shop understand the importance of offering such fun events to the area children.

As Berlin Recreation strives to create programs for every season, we acknowledge



Children "hunting" for treats at the Easter Egg Hunt

our ability would be very limited without the consistent generosity shown by the community. Whether it's financial aid from Tri-County CAP in the summer time, staff assistance from JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates), the countless volunteers throughout the year who willingly give their time as coaches, or simply donations of office and crafts supplies from many area residents, this department functions at a quality level because of the support Berlin citizens and organizations have shown us. We truly are grateful to all and will do our best to continue to earn your support.

Visit us at:

[www.berlinnh.gov/Pages/BerlinNH Recreation](http://www.berlinnh.gov/Pages/BerlinNH_Recreation)

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa (Terry) Lelands

Recreation Programmer